

1913.

Northwich Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,


AND

Vital Statistics, &c.,

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1913.

NORTHWICH

W. Hobson & Son, Printers and Bookbinders.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29921429>

NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

Population at Census, 1911	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,270
„ Estimated to middle of 1913	..	..	..	..	..	..	23,700
Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	54,301
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	..	..	..	..	..	..	23·5
Death „ „ „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	12·3
„ „ from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	·6
Deaths under 1 year, to 1,000 Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	86

This Rural District, the principal industry of which is dairy farming, is intersected by the river Weaver and its tributary the Dane. It entirely surrounds the three Urban Districts of Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford. In the vicinity of these towns are chemical and salt works employing many hands and creating villages of a semi-urban character. For registration and other purposes, the district is divided up into the following districts:

1. WEAVERHAM, having an area of 18,000 acres, includes Acton, Barnton, Crowton, Cuddington, Delamere, Eddisbury, Hartford, Little Leigh, Oakmere and Weaverham.
2. NORTHWICH, having an area of 10,891 acres, includes Allostock, Anderton, Cogshall, Comberbach, Leftwich, Lostock Gralam, Marbury, Marston, Nether Peover, Wincham and Winnington.
3. OVER, having an area of 12,472 acres, includes Clive, Darnhall, Eaton, Little Budworth, Marton, Moulton and Wimboldsley,
4. MIDDLEWICH, having an area of 12,938 acres, includes Bostock, Byley, Davenham, Kinderton, Lach Dennis, Rudheath, Stanthorne, Sproston and Whatcroft.

The excess of births over deaths is—Weaverham 103, Northwich 95, Over 32, Middlewich 56—Total of 286 for the whole district.

The population estimated to the middle of 1913 is 23700.

Births.—The number of Births registered was 555, giving a rate of 23·4 per 1000—272 were males and 283 females. There were 21 births of illegitimate children, giving a rate of ·89 per 1000.

The following table shows the numbers and sexes during each quarter and in each sub-district.

Rural District of	1st QUARTER.				2nd QUARTER.				3rd QUARTER.				4th QUARTER.				TOTALS FOR Y.		
	M	F	Tot'l	Rate	M	F	Tot'l	Rate	M	F	Tot'l	Rate	M	F	Tot'l	Rate	M	F	Tot'l
Weaverham.	28	29	57		33	21	54		22	30	52		20	31	51		103	111	214
Northwich ..	22	21	43		26	32	58		24	22	46		30	29	59		102	104	206
Over	6	9	15		8	8	16		12	12	24		7	6	13		33	35	68
Middlewich..	10	8	18		9	11	20		5	8	13		10	6	16		34	33	67
Totals for Quarters...	66	67	133	22·4	76	72	148	24·9	63	72	135	22·7	67	72	139	23·4	272	283	555
Births of Illegitimate Children	W. { 1 M. 2 F.				W. { 2 M. 1 F.				W. { 1 M. 2 F.				W. { 1 M. 1 F.				W. { 5 M. 6 F.		
	N. { 1 M. 1 F.				N. { 1 M. 1 F.				N. { 2 F. 1 F.				O. { 1 F. 1 F.				N. { 2 M. 3 F.		
	O. { 1 M.				O. { 2 M.								M. { 1 F.				O. { 3 M. 1 F.		
	6 { 3 M. 3 F.				7 { 5 M. 2 F.				4 { 1 M. 3 F.				4 { 1 M. 3 F.				M. { 1 F.		
																	21 { 10 M. 11 F.		
																	Rate = ·8		

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered was 273, but of these 6 were persons belonging to other districts, while 26 deaths were registered in other districts of persons belonging to this area.

The rate per 1000 is 12·3 and the number of deaths of infants under 1 year old is 48, while 111 deaths were of persons over 65 years old.

There were 4 deaths from measles, 2 from diphtheria, 2 from influenza, 19 from tubercular diseases, 18 from cancer, 30 from heart disease, and 34 from diseases of the lungs, 9 from diarrhoea, 3 from appendicitis, 10 from diseases of the kidneys, 5 from alcoholism and cirrhosis of the liver, 18 from violence, and the remainder from various other causes.

Inquests were held upon 30 deaths—2 were “suicide by drowning” a man and a woman each aged 75 years; 7 others were

either “found drowned” (2) or “accidently drowned” (5). Other causes of violent deaths were, from being run over by motor car (1), cart (1), fall from train (1), crane falling upon deceased (1), crushed by engine belt (1), blow from plank being hurled from circular saw (1), burns (1). The remainder were from various natural causes, but include pneumonia after fracture of thigh in aged person, cellulitis and alcoholism after cut upon hand, and “found dead in box from inattention at birth” in a newly born infant.

There were no uncertified deaths.

Infantile Mortality.—As already stated 558 children were born, and of these 48 died before reaching one year of age, this is equal to 86 per 1000 births, and to 23·5 per 1000 of the population.

Of these deaths 7 were from diarrhœa and enteritis, but none others from any zymotic diseases. Only 2 were from tuberculosis, 6 were from pneumonia and bronchitis, 15 from premature birth, including one case of triplets, the remainder from congenital weaknesses and malformations.

There were 2 deaths of illegitimate children—1 being the newly born infant “found dead in a box” already mentioned under “inquests,” and the other a prematurely born infant. The mothers were both domestic servants.

The notification of Births Act has not been adopted.

The following table shows the number in each sub-district during each month:—

	Weaverham.	Northwich.	Over.	Middlewich.	Whole District.	Quarter.				
January ...	5	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	6	} 15
February...	1	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	3	
March ...	2	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	6	
April	0	...	1	...	2	...	0	...	3	} 11
May	4	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	4	
June.....	1	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	4	
July	1	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	2	} 10
August.....	2	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	3	
September .	3	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	5	
October ...	3	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	6	} 12
November .	2	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	3	
December..	1	...	2	...	0	...	0	...	3	
Whole Year	25	15	6	2	48					

Zymotic Diseases and Deaths.—There were 15 deaths from Zymotic diseases, 4 being from measles, 2 from diphtheria and 9

from diarrhoea, which does not include several deaths occurring in the Isolation Hospital of persons from other districts.

The Zymotic death rate is '6 per 1000.

The number of Infectious diseases notified was 81, exclusive of tubercular diseases; there were 36 from diphtheria, 6 from erysipelas, 38 from scarlet fever, and 1 from typhoid fever.

The last was an imported case, the patient coming home ill from a holiday resort.

Thirty-four were removed to hospital.

Of non-notifiable infectious diseases—measles, whooping cough, and chicken pox were present during the year, and schools were closed to prevent the spread of disease as follows;

School.	Cause.	Period	
		from	to
Weaverham Council ..	Measles	Jan. 28 ..	Feb. 24
Rudheath C.E. ..	do.	Mar. 10 ..	Mar. 30
Marston C.E. ..	do.	„ 10 ..	„ 30
Wincham C.E. ..	Measles & Whooping cough	„ 11 ..	„ 30
Hartford C.E. ..	Measles	„ 4 ..	„ 23
Barnton C.E. ..	do.	„ 17 ..	April 6
Do. Brunner ..	do.	„ 17 ..	„ 6
Do. Runcorn Road	do.	„ 17 ..	„ 6
Delamere C.E. ..	do.	„ 17 ..	„ 6
Wincham C.E. ..	Chicken Pox	May 5 ..	„ 19
Marston C.E. ..	do. and Measles..	„ 5 ..	„ 19
Hartford C.E. ..	Whooping Cough ..	Oct. 15 ..	Nov. 9
Sandiway Council ..	Measles	„ 14 ..	„ 2
Barnton Runcorn Road	do.	„ 14 ..	„ 2

All schools are disinfected twice a year, also whenever closed for infectious disease or when requested.

All house-mates of infected scholars are excluded from school until the house is disinfected.

The following pathological examinations were made for the Sanitary Authority by Professor Delepine:—21 swabs from throats suspected of diphtheria, of which 12 were positive and 9 negative; 3 specimens of blood from suspected cases of enteric fever, 2 being negative and 1 positive; 3 samples of sputum were also examined but in none of them were the characteristic bacilli found.

80,000 units of antitoxin (diphtheritic) have been provided by the Sanitary Authority.

Tuberculosis.—There were 30 notifications of tuberculosis, 20 being phthisis and 10 being tubercle of organs other than the lungs.

The number of deaths registered from phthisis was 14, while 5 were from other tubercular diseases.

On receipt of notification, unless otherwise requested, each case is visited and verbal instructions as to isolation, sputum destruction, etc., is given; disinfectants are supplied and each house disinfected when requested and after death.

No shelters have been provided by the Sanitary Authority, but in a case occurring in an overcrowded house, arrangements were made for the house to be occupied by the patient only with her mother as nurse; this was carried on from the notification till death occurred after a short time.

Factories and Workshops.—The number in this district is 132 of which 32 are bakehouses, one of the latter being technically underground.

Few infringements are found, the nature of the premises in rural areas not readily inviting encroachments.

Full particulars are seen in the tabular statement.

There are no outworkers.

Bye-Laws, &c.—Owing to the nuisance arising from a bone-works at Acton Bridge, application was made to the Local Government Board for Urban powers under Sec. 114, P.H.A. Act 1975, and sanctioned. The factory has already put down plant to obviate the nuisance and is about to extend this preventive machinery still further.

The revision of the building bye-laws has been carefully undertaken with a view of getting the cost of building houses cheapened without sacrificing sanitation, and these bye-laws are now before the Local Government Board for approval.

No Adoptive Acts were instituted during the year under review.

Milk Supply.—This is par excellence a Dairying district, and there are 309 registered dairies and cowsheds. Most of them are high-class farms and everything which can be done to obtain pure milk is generally adopted. There are two Standing Committees of this Authority which each take half the district and visit shippens, &c., and get improvements in drainage, ventilation, air space, &c., &c., in numerous instances.

No notices for non-compliance with regulations, nor any legal action has been taken.

As milk is sent in large quantities from this district to the large towns, *i.e.* Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, St. Helens, &c., the milk is constantly being tested for tuberculosis, and 5 tubercular beasts have been notified.

In such cases the affected beast is isolated and usually slaughtered and dealt with by the police.

Food Inspection.—There is systematic inspection of confectioners, fishshops, &c., as well as slaughter-houses.

Of these last there are fourteen in the district, all of which are privately owned.

Water Supplies.—Considerable activity has been manifest in the provision of proper water supplies over this extensive district, which with its scattered farms and cottages is a costly one to carry service pipes throughout its area.

Seventeen samples of water have been analysed at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and some 39 neutral samples have formed the basis of "various investigations." The double examination, *i.e.* chemical and bacteriological is invaluable in the case of rural wells and springs.

The full particulars of these examinations will be seen in the Inspector's report.

The Barnton springs which are near the surface have been examined very carefully and one which was liable to pollution cut off altogether, and in this village some 378 yards of 3 in. mains have been laid for the supply of some 60 proposed new dwelling-houses. This means that an additional supply is becoming necessary in the near future, and on the representation of the Medical Officer of Health to the Sanitary Authority that a large quantity of water was running to waste at no very great distance, an attempt was made to procure it but the landowner refused to sell, as it is reserved for "trade purposes."

An extension of a $\frac{3}{4}$ in. pipe for some 534 yards has been made at Wincham to supply a mill and a cottage.

At Weaverham a 2 in. pipe has been carried some 830 yards to supply a farm and 2 cottages.

A scheme for the taking of water from the Middlewich main at Davenham and carrying it to supply Byley, Whatcroft and Rudheath, has been placed before the Local Government Board, and is awaiting the application of the Northwich Urban District for Parliamentary powers to supply Rudheath from a new source which they request permission to obtain.

Whoever supplies this district it is one where a water service is very much required, as also are Allostock and Lostock; the outlying portions also of Delamere and Oakmere are not too well supplied with this necessary article, the neighbourhood of Quarry

Lane and the Yeld having many houses with a poor supply and that at some distance.

In the Surveyor's report there is a most exhaustive account of all "waterworks" in the district.

Cleansing.—There are 12 townships in which the cleansing is done by contractors; the outlying cottages and farms using their own refuse for manure.

Pails are removed weekly, dustbins and cesspools cleansed fortnightly, and ashpits monthly.

Waterclosets are being introduced wherever new property is erected, and the water and sewers will allow of it; and as the provision of extended water supplies are under consideration it may be of some interest to note that during the year some £220 has been expended upon pails to replace worn and defective ones, also over £20 has been expended upon carbolic powder to disinfect these so-called sanitary pails: roughly about £250 per annum is spent which would be a good set off against the interest and sinking fund of any schemes which would substitute "water carriage" for the "pail" system, and make for true economy as well as for better sanitation.

The work done in connection with the numerous sewerage works is fully specified in the report of the Inspector, and shows that every endeavour is made to keep them efficient and sufficient.

Housing.—By reference to the Inspector's and Surveyor's reports it will be seen how many and in what districts houses have been dealt with.

Thirty-five new houses have been erected, and 354 have been inspected with the result that repairs to 79 houses have been done by representation to the owners of the necessity for them.

Forty-three have been condemned by the Medical Officer of Health as unfit for habitation, and on representation of this being made to the owners through the Clerk, 20 have been overhauled and 21 are in process of being done, but with the result that 3 cheap labourers cottages are lost.

By the exercise of tact and discretion this excellent amount of work has been done without recourse to any compulsion.

The worst feature of this record is that the bad houses are improved, but invariably the rents are also raised (of necessity), and the "cheap cottage" is either made dearer or perforce left "nasty." The economic problem of providing a decent dwelling for the "pound a week" man at a rent he can afford, being quite insoluble, if it is looked at merely from the £ s. d.

standpoint. The Sanitary Authority is endeavouring to cope with this evil, and is building some 6 cottages at Delamere upon $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of ground purchased from the Crown at £50 per acre; these cottages will be in pairs, and some have two bedrooms and some three. They will provide an excellent type of house for any working man, and it is to be sincerely hoped that they may prove a patent success, and lead to the further extension of building by the Municipal Authority, since no other provision for cottagers is available.

Town Planning has not been seriously considered as yet, the necessity for action not being apparent, although one or two meetings with an adjoining authority were held.

HENRY EDWARD GOUGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 23rd, 1914.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	24,350	562		23'8	284	11'6	5	13	65	115	292	11'9
1909	24,660	546		22'1	266	10'7	11	21	43	78	276	11'1
1910	24,980	538		21'1	244	9'7	0	7	34	63	237	9'4
1911	23,270	542		23'2	309	13'2	7	22	74	134	324	13'9
1912	23,400	536		22'9	284	12'1	13	20	50	93	291	12'4
1913	23,700	555	558	23'5	263	11'0	6	26	48	86	283	11'9

Total population at all ages, 23,270.
Number of inhabited houses, 4,982.
Average number of persons per house, 4'6.

At Census of 1911.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).

54,301.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.							TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.						Weaverham. 1	Northwich. 2	Over. 3	Middlewich 4	5	6	7		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.									65 and up- wards.
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Diphtheria including }	36	...	7	17	6	6	...	...	16	1	6	...	...	...	...	12
Membranous croup }		...	...	1	1	3	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	.....
Erysipelas	6	...	10	26	2	...	...	...	6	6	3	...	...	...	...	22
Scarlet fever	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Typhus fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Enteric fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Relapsing fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Continued fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Puerperal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Poliomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	20	...	...	2	4	11	3	...	7	1	3	...	...	...	...	.....
Other forms of Tuberculosis	10	...	...	6	3	1	...	...	4	1	2	...	...	...	...	.....
Totals	111	17	52	16	22	4	...	...	36	9	15	...	...	...	...	34

Isolation { Northwich Rural and Northwich, Middlewich, and
Hospital { Winsford Urban Isolation Hospital, Leftwich.

Total available beds 34.

Number of diseases that can
be concurrently treated } 3 or 4

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS," WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF RESIDENTS OR NON- RESIDENTS IN INSTI- TUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	II
All causes.. { Certified.....	283	48	8	11	13	6	31	55	111	.....
{ Uncertified....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Enteric Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Small Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Measles	4	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Scarlet fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Whooping-cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Diphtheria and croup	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	4
Influenza	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.....
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Phthisis (Pulmonary {	14	1	..	..	1	2	7	3	..	.....
Tuberculosis)										
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	1	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	.....
Cancer, malignant disease.	18	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	10	.....
Rheumatic Fever	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	.....
Meningitis	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Organic Heart Disease....	30	..	..	..	..	..	4	11	15	.....
Bronchitis	12	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	.....
Pneumonia (all forms)	21	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	4	.....
Other diseases of respira- } tory organs	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	.....
Diarrhœa and Enteritis....	9	6	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	.....
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	3	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	.....
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	.....
Alcoholism	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	.....
Nephritis & Bright's disease	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4	.....
Puerperal Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Other accidents and dis- } eases of Pregnancy and } Parturition	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	.....
Congenital Debility and } Malformation, includ- } ing Premature Birth .. }	28	27	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....
Violent Deaths, excluding } Suicide	16	1	1	3	4	1	3	2	1	.....
Suicides	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.....
Other defined diseases	95	6	1	1	..	..	4	18	65	.....
Diseases ill-defined or } unknown	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	.....
	283	48	8	11	13	6	31	55	111	6
Old Age	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	.....
Bronchial-Pneumonia	5	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	.....

TABLE IV.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES:										
Certified	23	3	3	..	29	6	4	2	7	48
Uncertified .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis (b) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	I
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	2
Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis .....	..	..	I	..	I	3	..	..	..	4
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Diarrhœa .....	..	..	..	..	..	I	2	..	I	4
Enteritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	2	3
Gastritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, over-lying .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis	I	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	I
Congenital Malformations (c) ..	3	..	I	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Premature Birth	15	2	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	17
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ..	4	I	I	..	6	2	..	..	..	8
Other Causes .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	I
	23	3	3	..	29	6	4	2	7	48

Nett Births in the year { legitimate—534.
 { illegitimate—21.

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 46.
illegitimate infants 2.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions. 4
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	10	3	..
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries).	164	6	..
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report).	..	..	..
Total	174	9	..

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
	2	3	4	
I				5
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of ventilation .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances	6	6	..	..
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..
	unsuitable or defective ..	3	..	..
	not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (S. 101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100). ..	..	..	..	..
Other offences .. .. .	..	..	..	..
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).				
Total	9	6	..	..

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

NATURE OF WORK. I	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.					
	Lists received from Employers.					
	Twice in the year.			Once in the year.		
	Lists. 2	Outworkers Con- tractors. 3	Workmen. 4	Lists. 5	Outwerke Con- tractors. 6	Wo
Wearing Apparel :						
(1) making, &c.
(2) cleaning and washing..
Household Linen
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets
Curtains and Furniture Hangings
Furniture and Upholstery
Cart Gear
Anchors and Grapnels..
Locks, Latches and Keys
Umbrellas, &c.
Artificial Flowers
Tents
Sacks
Feather Sorting..
Basket Making
Chocolates and Sweetmeats
TOTAL

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the year.						Number.
I						2
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses					32
	Others					100
	Total number of workshops on Register.					132

[illegible]

Class.	Number.
1	2
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 5) {	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ..	3
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	3
Other
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :	
Certificates granted during the year
In use at the end of the year	1

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

General Order of Local Government Board (Medical Officer of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances), December 13th, 1910.

Tabular Statement of Inspectors of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1913.

A Number and Nature of Inspections made.		Number.	B Number of Notices served.		C Result of Service of Notices.		
			Statutory.	Informal.	Notice com- plied with.	Remaining in hand.	Prosecutions. Instituted. Pending.
1.	Dwelling Houses (general inspection) ..	726	....	....	....	....	....
2.	Cellar Dwellings ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
3.	Back-to-Back Houses ..	2	....	2	....	2	....
4.	Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5.	Courts, Yards, Passages..	23	....	23	13	10	....
6.	Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets ..	18	....	18	12	6	....
7.	Cesspools ..	36	....	36	36	....	....
8.	House Drainage ..	57	....	57	47	10	....
9.	Ditches, Watercourses, &c. ..	42	....	42	42	....	....
10.	Offensive Accumulations ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
11.	The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3) ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
12.	Offensive Trades ..	1	....	1	....	1	....
13.	(a) Slaughterhouses (Public) (Private) ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
14.	" (b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold..	....	....	....	....	....	....
15.	Piggeries ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(a) Dairies ..	196	....	391	196 known after	Inspection	....
	(b) Cowsheds ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
16.	(c) Milkshops ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(a) Factories ..	10	....	3	....	3	....
	(b) Workshops ..	164	....	6	6	....	....
	(c) Workplaces ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
	(d) Outworkers' Premises ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
17.	Bakehouses (Overground) (Underground) ..	30 2	....	....	....	....	....
18.	Common Lodging Houses ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
19.	Houses let in Lodgings ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
20.	Smoke Observations ..	16	....	....	....	....	....
21.	Canal Boats ..	61	....	31	31	....	....
22.	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits ..	320	....	....	....	....	....
23.	Miscellaneous ..	No record	....	....	....	....	....
Totals ..		1704	....	610	383	32	1

SURVEYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 1913.

WATERWORKS.

Cuddington, Hartford, Weaverham (Sandiway), and Oakmere (part).

These works not only supply the above Townships but also provide a supplemental supply to the Weaverham (Village) and Acton Waterworks. The works have been painted and decorated and the pumps thoroughly overhauled. The tower tank, reservoirs, pump well and wells at the springs have been thoroughly cleansed, and the works are now in very good order. The yield of the springs is better than has been recorded previously. About 35,000 gallons per day, the average surplus, is permitted to run into the stream which passes the works by means of the pump well overflow.

The total quantity of water pumped during the half-year ending September 30th last, amounted to 13,679,000 gallons or an average of 75,163 gallons per day. The districts served are largely of the residential or farming type, and as a consequence many large houses with baths and water closets and farms with refrigerators have to be supplied. Many motor cars are kept in the district and these add considerably to the consumption of water. The total number of houses supplied is about 458 with an estimated population of 2,748. The average consumption per head of population served after making the necessary allowance for the supplemental supply to Weaverham and Acton, works out at 27 gallons which is abnormally high for the Rural district.

The question of increasing the capacity of the Tower Tank is receiving the consideration of the Council.

Extensions of mains have been carried out in connection with these works along the Weaverham road from Hartford Beach for the benefit of a new farmhouse. The owner, The Right Hon. Lord Barrymore, contributed the cost of an inch tube, and as the Council were of the opinion that a 2-inch main would provide for future developments it was decided to carry out the work on these lines.

The value of the Council's action has been proved, for two cottages situated in Hodge Lane without a supply previously have now been connected to this new main at the owner's expense. The length of the 2-in. main is 830 lin. yards.

In order to provide a supply suitable for fire purposes near his house, J. F. L. Brunner, Esq., M.P. agreed to contribute the whole cost of substituting a 3-in. main for the existing 2-in. main in Littledale's Lane, Sandiway (Weaverham). The work has been carried out.

The mains have also been extended 833 lin. yards for the benefit of 2 farms and 6 cottages at Ravensclough, Cuddington, which either had no supply or a supply bad in quality.

Barnton.

Owing to several sources of supply having been cut out permanently because of the presence of bacillus of the Coli type in such supplies, these works are now severely handicapped. The loss thereby sustained has necessitated a greatly increased demand on Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co's. Cogshall Water Works, from which the Township obtains a supplemental supply delivered at the pumping station. The average daily call during the last few months has been about 17,000 gallons, but on certain days considerably more is required. The yield of the Council's springs is now only 16,000 gallons per day and the average daily demand about 33,000 gallons. Of course, the Little Leigh springs will supply a certain portion of the district but only in a very unsatisfactory manner, as the pressure is not sufficient to supply some of the houses above ground floor and others have to resort to pumps which were fixed to the taps before the Tower was erected. Nevertheless, in order to keep down expense, this system has had to be brought into operation on several occasions.

It must be borne in mind that building developments are proceeding very rapidly in the Township, about 60 houses fitted with baths and waterclosets, being in course of erection. The demand for water will therefore be greater in the future, and the additional daily quantity required will be about 5,000 gallons. This, however, does not provide for any future development and the Council decided after carefully considering the above together with the fact that the Tower Tank is insufficient both in capacity and height, to approach the Liverpool Corporation with a view to a full supply for the Township being obtained from their aqueduct which passes within a few miles of the district and which would remove the necessity for a tower. The Council now await the Corporation's consent and terms.

The mains have been extended along the street known as Broadway for a distance of about 378 lin. yards, 3-in. diameter, for the benefit of the new property previously referred to, the cost of which the owners, Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co. will bear. Three circulating mains 2-in. diameter have also been laid along Mond Street and back Nursery Road, thereby greatly improving the supply in this locality.

Lostock Gralam.

These works have maintained a continuous supply throughout the year. The supplemental works at Lostock Hollow have been constructed and all with the exception of the pumping plant is very satisfactory. Up to the present time the engine has failed to fulfil the maker's guarantee and the Council are negotiating with them on the matter. It is expected however that the works will be in order before any demand is likely to be made for this additional supply of 8,000 gallons per day. The old reservoirs have a capacity of 39,000 gallons and the added reservoir accommodation is equal to 23,000 gallons, making a total of 62,000 gallons or almost $2\frac{1}{2}$ days supply. The yield of the springs at the old works is 31,000 gallons per day and this added to the yield from the new source makes a total daily yield of 39,000 gallons. A day's supply to the Township is 26,000 gallons. It will therefore be seen that the supply exceeds the demand by 13,000 gallons per day.

The capacity of the tower tank will ere long have to be considered with a view to its enlargement. Its capacity is only 12,000 gallons and therefore is equal to less than half one day's supply. It is also somewhat too low to afford a continuous supply to cisterns fixed in the roofs of some of the houses in the high part of the district.

A scheme for the extension of the Township's mains along Lostock Green and Moss Lane has been prepared and approved by the Council subject to the Owners of property to be benefitted contributing reasonably to the cost of same.

The scheme will link up 7 farms and 4 cottages which are at present not very favourably situated as regards water supply.

Difficulty has arisen however with regard to owners' contributions only one out of the six having agreed, viz.:—Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co., whose share in proportion to the rateable value of their property to be benefitted, amounted to £311. The full cost of the scheme is estimated at £510, and when it is considered that the remaining balance is divided amongst five other owners, and also that the Company are prepared to contribute the whole sum apportioned to them, the offer must be looked upon as a liberal

one. A Committee of the Council have met the Parish Council and explained the Council's proposals in order that the remaining owners may have a better opportunity to understand the scheme. Meanwhile further developments are awaited.

Weaverham (Village) and Acton.

These works have by means of the supplemental supply from Sandiway Water Works provided a continuous supply to the districts. It is supplemented as a rule, except when the special necessity arises, during the week ends. The total quantity taken in this way for the year amounts to 345,000 gallons, or on the average, a little over 945 gallons per day.

Wincham and Marston.

The works continue to provide a satisfactory supply to the districts. The usual troubles have been experienced during the year, viz., the fracturing of mains and services through subsidence. These, happily, have been discovered in good time and unnecessary waste avoided.

The mains have been extended a distance of about 534 lin. yards to a mill and cottage situated at Cranage Brook at a cost of £31, the owners of the property contributing £15 towards the expense. The supply for these properties was previously obtained from a drain pipe protruding from the ground which was obviously a dangerous source, being little more than land drainage.

Moulton, Davenham and Leftwich.

The districts have been well supplied during the year. The supplemental supply obtained from the Middlewich mains is used as economically as possible and as a rule, only on Sundays, when the Middlewich demand is low. Thus our own reservoir is fully charged on Mondays; 1,632,000 gallons have been taken in this way during the year or an average of a little over 4,471 gals. per day. This shows a saving of 229,000 gallons as compared with the previous year. The whole of the water pumped at the works has passed through the oxidising pressure filter.

Oakmere (part) and Delamere.

The water supply to these districts is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation's mains.

In lieu of the old 2-inch meter the Corporation have fixed two meters operated by an equilibrium valve, the larger one being a

3-inch and the smaller one 1-inch. When the demand is high the large one automatically comes in use and when the demand is low, the small one. It is a point worthy of notice that the larger one has passed twice as much water as the small one, thus proving the Council's contention that at times the old 2-inch meter was not equal to the demands made upon it.

Clive, Stanthorne (part) and Wimboldsley (part).

The supply to these Townships from the Winsford Urban Council has not been very satisfactory as regards pressure. Interference with the supply for repairs, &c., or excessivs demand in the town cause these Townships to suffer at times severely. The dairy farms dependent on the supply are often seriously inconvenienced, at times not obtaining a supply for many days together, a certain amount of danger and annoyance is caused by cisterns fixed in the roofs of some of the houses (on which hot water or sanitary convenience supplies depend).

This clearly points out the advisability of obtaining the supplies for Townships, where it is essential to depend upon a neighbouring authority, at such a point or place where there is not likely to be any serious or frequent interference with the supply, or in other words the point of connection should be at a place where no thickly populated area will be likely to detrimentally affect the continuous pressure to the Rural District.

Byley, Rudheath and Whatcroft.

It was hoped that this scheme would by now have been actually carried out or at any rate in progress. The Local Government Government Board enquiry has been held and the Board have since stated that they were prepared to approve the scheme, but before doing so they wished to know what the Council intended to do with regard to existing mains laid in the Township of Rudheath. The Council, after negotiating with the Urban Council of Northwich who claim the ownership of the pipes, decided to lay new mains and therefore asked for an increased loan for the purpose. Since then, however, the Local Government Board have informed the Council that, owing to the Urban Council of Northwich seeking statutory powers in regard to water supply in the Township of Rudheath, they deferred further consideration of the matter until Parliament had given its decision.

This has blocked the Council's endeavour to provide a supply to districts at present very badly served in this respect, as a scheme for the Township of Byley and Whatcroft is too great a burden on parishes with such low rateable values. To omit from the

scheme the Township of Rudheath renders such scheme impracticable. The scheme not only provided for a supply in the Townships referred to, but by means of owners' contributions, was intended to be extended not only to the full limits of Byley and Rudheath, but possibly also to adjoining Townships.

A straight line across the Township of Rudheath measures over 4 miles, only the first half mile of which adjoining the Northwich Urban boundary has a water supply. Thus by far the greatest area of the district is either without a supply at all or has to depend upon shallow wells of doubtful purity, and in other cases wells of known impurity.

Plans were recently presented for building a cottage in Byley but the Council insisted that a supply of water must be obtained first, as until they were satisfied there would be a plentiful supply of pure and wholesome water such plans could not be passed. A borehole was sunk on the site without success, no water being found. A new site was selected and another borehole sunk, at this place water was found, but it would not pass the analyst. The owner complained that he had no alternative but to abandon the idea of building in Byley until a water supply is provided by the Council.

This clearly indicates the necessity for a public scheme, and considering the fact that it is an urgent necessity over the whole of the three Townships, it is to be regretted that the matter has been hung up in this manner, after so much time and consideration has been devoted to the proposed scheme by the Council. To my knowledge it has received great attention during the last three years and I am informed that it has been under the consideration of my predecessor to provide a suitable scheme for the districts for the last 17 years of his term of office, but owing to difficulties then existing he was not able to produce a practicable scheme.

Even the scheme now proposed would not be financially practicable had not Col. C. H. France-Hayhurst and two other owners offered to contribute liberally to the cost, and the fact that the Middlewich mains, to which it is proposed to connect, carry a high pressure, thereby enabling the Council to use mains of less size than would otherwise be necessary.

Little Leigh.

The trial well which the Council decided to sink to replace an existing public well has been sunk, but the spot decided upon did not reveal the presence of an old filled up water course within a few feet of the site until actual operations were commenced and it had in consequence to be abandoned. A new site has been selected, and the work will be proceeded with as soon as practicable.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Barnton.

The sewage disposal works continue to yield very good effluents.

The low level sewer has caused some trouble owing to large accumulations of sand and grit washing in from the high lands. It has been opened out in sections and is now in good order.

The Council have had under consideration my report on the inefficient ventilation of sewers of the district, where three Coal Gas Sewer Ventilating Lamps are in use. The system in operation is to light the Ventilating lamps as and when the street lamps are lighted. This means that during moonlight nights the lamps are not lighted at all, and what is worse still, when the lighting season finishes, the Ventilating lamps are not used again until the winter lighting season commences. Estimates were obtained for (1) lighting from sunrise to sunset each day throughout the year, and (2) for lighting continuously throughout the year the full 24 hours each day. The costs were as follows:—(1) £8 5s. 0d. each or a total of £24 15s. 0d. per annum. (2) £12 10s. 0d. each or a total of £37 10s. 0d. per annum. Each lamp is of the single burner type.

The present cost to the Council is £2 17s. per lamp, or a total of £8 11s. per annum.

This greatly increased cost was considered too much for the Township and it was therefore decided to remove the lamps and in lieu thereof to substitute steel tube ventilating shafts of suitable dimensions fixed at the highest points of the system of sewers. Any other sewers requiring ventilation to be dealt with in this manner.

Hartford.

The schemes for remodelling the outfall works and laying new sewer to abolish the existing outfall at Hartford Beach have been approved by the Council. The scheme for carrying the main sewer over the line at Hartford Station so as to abolish the existing outfall tank on the Heyswood side of the railway has required some modification owing to provision having to be made for future widening of the L. & N.-W. main line. The revised drawings have been prepared and the Railway Authorities appear to be at last moving more quickly in the matter, which has taken about twelve months in the way of negotiation. However it is anticipated that the Council will soon be able to apply to the Local Government Board for their sanction to a loan to cover the three branches of the Hartford Sewage Scheme.

Winnington.

The 15-in. diameter main sewer across Winnington Park has owing to the development of works in the locality been diverted at the expense of the owners of the works, Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co., Ltd.

The joint outfall works at Wallerscote have been remodelled and since this work has been carried out the Council's 15-in. outfall sewer constantly remains partially flooded, generally about two-thirds full.

A sample of the effluent taken on December 30th from these works was reported on by the County Analyst as "a bad effluent, with practically no signs of having undergone necessary oxidation." A copy of the report was forwarded to the Urban Council and is no doubt under consideration.

Acton.

The sewer at the north end of the district has been extended a distance of 52 lin. yards.

Weaverham (Sandiway).

In connection with twelve houses, the sewage from which was dealt with in two small tanks connected to a ditch by an overflow, the Council have constructed a septic tank and soak-away filter. The effluent therefore now passes into a sand bed of great depth and causes no nuisance. This is a great improvement on the previous system. The owner of the property contributed one-half the cost.

Wincham.

The percolating filter at the outfall has been taken down, the media washed and the filter rebuilt. The improved results have amply repaid for the expense incurred.

Rudheath.

In connection with the outfall works a new 12-inch diameter effluent sewer has been laid through the railway cattle arch to the river Dane, a distance of 290 lin. yards in substitution for the existing 9-inch sewer which delivered into the culvert passing under the railway.

A sample of the effluent from these works taken in May last was reported on by the County Analyst as "a fairly good effluent."

BUILDING PLANS.

Plans for the erection of 75 new dwelling houses have been approved by the Council, also for 7 additions and improvements to dwelling houses and 4 for other erections.

Inspections have been carried out as required and 35 dwelling houses approved for habitation.

Thirty-one of the dwelling-houses certified are supplied from the Council's water mains, 2 from a public well from which excellent water is obtained, and two from rain tanks as no other supply was available.

Eighteen of the houses are connected to the Council's sewers and 17 deal with the sewage in tanks on land adjoining, 12 of which number have also soak-away filters.

The majority of the proposed dwelling-houses approved during the year are at Barnton by Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co., in the process of estate development. The class of houses generally are a little too expensive for the labourer and more suitable for the artisan and skilled worker. But a change has been recently made and in substitution for some of the above houses a cheaper form of cottage is proposed to be built. There are two blocks of 4 houses and each house has a living room 13ft. 1½in. x 11ft., scullery (out of which is built the coal place and larder) 14ft. 7½in. x 6ft. 9in. and three bedrooms upstairs 1st—14ft. 7½in. x 9ft. 4in., 2nd—10ft. 9in. x 7ft. 2in. and 3rd—7ft. 7in. x 7ft. 3½in. Two of the bedrooms have fireplaces and in addition to the copper and sink in the scullery a bath is fixed with movable draining board over the top. The walls between bedrooms are formed with 2in. coke breeze slabs plastered both sides. The floors of the kitchens are formed with wood blocks on concrete beds and for the sculleries tiles on concrete. The W.C's. are the only part of the buildings under a separate roof.

I am informed that these houses can be built to set at a cheap rent and they may be considered a really good attempt to solve the housing problem.

Three labourers' cottages have been lost in the Township of Barnton during the year by reason of the application of the Housing Acts. The type of cottages referred to above will greatly relieve the acute demand for the cheaper class of house.

J. BIRTWISTLE,

Surveyor,

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT *FOR THE YEAR 1913.*

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 391 Registered Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk in the District, 10 of which have been granted during the year, and the systematic inspection for record purposes has discovered 15 farms which through change of tenants and other causes have ceased to sell milk. Several cowsheds have been entirely rebuilt and others re-arranged by the owners, and reports upon 21 cowsheds await the consideration of the Standing Committee appointed by the Council to deal with such reports. Preliminary notices have been issued to the whole of the registered farmers as to limewashing and inspections show that the work has been faithfully carried out. Outside authorities have notified 5 tubercular cows after analysis of milk in their district, which under the new regulations have been passed on to the Police and have been dealt with by them; 28 tubercular cows have been notified to the Clerk by the police since the Tuberculosis Order came into operation, and inspections have followed in due course. The necessity for calling in veterinary advice as mentioned in the report for 1912 has not arisen during the year.

Water Supplies.

15 samples of water, used for drinking purposes, have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Victoria University, for both bacteriological and chemical analysis, and 1 for chemical only, and one sample submitted to the County Analyst, making 17 in all. Of these 13 were certified bad and 4 passed as suitable for drinking purposes.

The 13 supplies certified bad were dealt with as follows: 2 samples were from two new wells put down by the owner of cottages in Cogshall, and being certified bad were abandoned and properly constructed rain water tanks provided; 2 samples were taken from the supply to a farmhouse at Little Leigh, and with the view of improving the supply, the owner has re-constructed the whole of the sanitary arrangements and rebuilt the well which is being pumped out daily and now awaits re-analysis. 2

of the samples were from separate wells on two farms in the vicinity of each other at Wincham, and as it was considered impossible to improve the existing supplies, the owner is considering the offer of the Council to extend the Township mains as the only possible solution of the difficulty; 2 other samples were from two wells on a farm at Crowton, but as the construction of the wells was thought to be the cause of the pollution indicated on the certificates of analysis, the owner is going to considerable expense in boring, which if successful, will provide a solution of the difficulty here. 1 sample was from a new well put down to replace an existing well supplying six cottages at Little Leigh, and being unsatisfactory has been taken out and a more favourable site chosen; 2 samples were from two wells in connection with the Barnton Township supply found two years ago polluted by an overflowing pit and was disconnected from the supply to the works; the results of this re-analysis have been to finally abandon the wells as dangerous owing to liability to pollution; 1 sample was from a new well put down at Allostock, and after analysis abandoned as a supply for drinking purposes, and a properly constructed rain tank is being constructed to provide the only safe supply in the vicinity; and 1 sample was taken from a well at a farm house in Little Budworth but before giving a final opinion the bacteriologist has requested a further sample, which is to be sent at an early date in the new year.

Of the 4 samples passed as suitable for drinking purposes, it was stated that the action on lead of one of the samples taken from a farm at Little Leigh was greater than should be allowed; this was rendered safe by the removal of all lead from contact with the water, and the remaining 3 samples taken from wells at Delamere, Allostock and Byley were approved by the Council.

Certificates under Section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878 have been granted by the Council to the owners of 35 new houses completed during the year, 11 of which are at Barnton, 4 at Cuddington, 2 Cogshall, 3 Delamere, 3 Hartford, 2 Rudheath, 2 Wincham and 8 Weaverham (Sandiway); 33 of these are supplied from public supplies, and 2 supplied from rain water tanks after it had been proved to the Council by boring and well sinking, that other suitable supplies were not available in the locality.

Infectious Disease.

In dealing with the notified cases of infectious disease 320 visits to infected houses have been made during the year, including visits to report to Medical Officer of Health, supervision of cases not removed, and disinfection, and difficulty has only arisen in one case of phthisis owing to there being no Sanatoria available, which

was surmounted by turning all out of the house but the patient (a married women lodger) and the patient's mother, until death took place about seven days later. 972 bottles of disinfectants have been distributed to prevent the spread of disease, and the whole of the 23 Public Schools within the District have been disinfected twice during the year, and again where found necessary to close to prevent the spread of un-notifiable disease, and it can safely be said that there has not been what can be termed an epidemic of any notifiable disease since the systematic disinfection of schools commenced. Many houses where measles, whooping cough and chicken-pox have occurred have also been disinfected on request, 34 cases have been removed to hospital during the year, 22 of which were scarlet fever and 12 diphtheria cases, there were 8 cases in hospital from the district at the commencement of the year, and with 39 cases discharged therefrom leaves only 3 cases in hospital from this district at the end of the year.

Scavenging Department.

The altered form of contract providing for the fortnightly removal of House refuse appears to be much appreciated, and with the weekly change of pails the system is as perfect as the system can be made to be under contract conditions. Two of the 12 townships cleansed under contract have the water carriage system, and only removal of house refuse is provided for. This system is fast becoming general in most of the other townships as all the new houses built where there is the Township's Water Supply and Sewers have the water closets in preference to the pail system, every inducement for such preference being given by the Council's officials where practicable.

624 new pails and covers have been handed to the contractors to make up for defectives in the 12 townships, and 9½ tons of carbolic powder used for pail disinfection during the year, with the necessary supervision of the contractors cleansing upwards of 2,000 houses, shows clearly that it is the endeavour of the Council to keep the existing system in the best possible state of efficiency.

Canal Boats Act.

The Council's Report of Inspections of Canal Boats shows that 61 boats were examined during the year, and 34 infringements of the Act and Regulations remedied on 31 boats and certified accordingly viz ; absence of certificate 14, certificate not identifying the owner 1, marking 2, overcrowding 3, females over 12 improperly occupying 2, painting 4, dilapidation 4, without pump 1, and no proper water vessel 3.

No case of infectious disease was discovered or notified during the year, and it is due to the occupants of the boats to say that the cleanliness of the cabins inspected was very much to their credit.

Slaughter Houses.

During the year 2 of the licensed slaughter houses have been abandoned as such, and with the erection of a modern bacon factory at Cuddington including a slaughter house for swine, makes the total licensed in the district 14. The whole of these have been inspected at all hours and at frequent intervals, no cause for complaint being found.

Factory and Workshops Act.

There are now 132 workshops on the register only 1 country wheelwright's shop having been added during the year. 32 of these are bakehouses which have been visited at frequent intervals, the remainder are shoemakers, tailors, dressmakers, etc., the inspections of which have resulted in 6 nuisances being remedied. Notices have received from H. M. Inspector of Factories as to unsuitable sanitary conveniences at 2 brickyards and 1 builders yard. The brickyards are only open during the summer months, and arrangements have been made to provide new sanitary accommodation before the yards are re-opened, and the builders yard having the pail system in an unsuitable position for such system, arrangements are made to erect new water closets as soon as the reconstruction of the Council's Sewer is completed.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910.

The Inspections under these regulations have been for the past 3 years directed chiefly in that portion of the district known to require the most urgent operation of the Housing Acts, and which will have been dealt with by the end of 1914, afterwards the percentage of action taken under Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act will be considerably less, and progress of Inspections proportionately greater, for in dealing with houses under this section, progress is of necessity slower in obtaining the object of the Act without loss of houses; thus of the 354 houses inspected during the year 43 have or are being dealt with under this section, 21 of which are at Barnton, 4 Marston, 1 Wincham, 10 Crowton, 2 Little Budworth, 1 Marton and 4 in Cuddington. Of these houses the 1 in Wincham a detached public house, was owing to subsidence rendered dangerous, and on the Council taking action the owners finally closed the house and removed the whole structure the site being now under water, and 1 of the

4 in Marston was in a similar condition through the same cause, which on the Council issuing a closing order was closed by the owners, and the order became operative the site being unsafe.

4 of the 21 houses named in Barnton, viz., a block of 4 has been owing to lack of space at the rear, made into 3, and a block of 3 in the same locality has been made into 2 for similar reasons, and 1 of a block of 8 (between the 2 previously mentioned blocks) now being dealt with, has of necessity to be surrendered to give through ventilation to the front house which at present has only 2 rooms and a cellar with only one door, thus there are 3 labourers' cottages less in the village, and the 2 houses in Little Budworth being back-to-back houses are to be made into one, making a total loss of 6 houses in the district, 4 of which are labourers cottages. The work of restoration has been completed at 20 of the houses, and the remaining 21 are in course of repair and will also be completed shortly.

Of the other 311 houses inspected, repairs to windows, roof, spouts, floors, etc., has been obtained at 79 houses on representation being made to the owner without recourse to the repair section of the Act. Many others are dealt with under the Public Health Acts, and are included in the nuisance returns.

FRED BENNETT,

Inspector of Nuisances.